

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A fireplace comprising:
  - an enclosure defining a chamber;
  - a support structure having an ember support surface, said support surface being disposed within the chamber;
  - a plurality of translucent artificial embers, wherein the translucent artificial embers are disposed upon but separable from said support surface; and
  - a light source positioned to pass light through at least a portion of the support structure to illuminate the translucent artificial embers.
- 10 2. The fireplace of claim 1, wherein the support structure comprises:
  - a raised floor positioned above a bottom panel of the enclosure; and
  - an ember support bed coupled to the raised floor and forming said ember support structure, wherein the translucent artificial embers are disposed on a top surface of the ember support bed.
- 15 3. The fireplace of claim 2, wherein the ember support bed comprises a translucent plate.
- 20 4. The fireplace of claim 2, wherein the ember support bed comprises a mesh screen.
5. The fireplace of claim 2, wherein the ember support bed comprises a perforated plate.
- 25 6. The fireplace of claim 1, further comprising a gas burner positioned above the ember support surface to provide flames and heat upon combustion.
7. The fireplace of claim 1, wherein the light source is disposed within the chamber.

8. The fireplace of claim 1, wherein the translucent artificial embers comprise fused silica particles.

9. The fireplace of claim 1, wherein the support structure defines at least one  
5 aperture through said ember support surface to deliver combustible gas to the chamber.

10. The fireplace of claim 1, wherein the light source comprises components that withstand temperatures greater than 500 degrees Fahrenheit.

10 11. The fireplace of claim 10, wherein the light source comprises a halogen light.

12. A fireplace comprising:

a combustion chamber enclosure, wherein the combustion chamber enclosure includes a support structure, said support structure being configured to support a  
15 plurality of loosely separable and at least partially translucent artificial embers; and  
a light source arranged and configured relative to said support structure so as to illuminate said artificial embers when supported by said support structure.

13. The fireplace of claim 12, wherein the support structure defines at least one  
20 aperture to provide combustion air to the combustion chamber enclosure.

14. The fireplace of claim 12, wherein the support structure defines at least one aperture to provide combustion gas to the combustion chamber enclosure.

25 15. A fireplace comprising:  
an enclosure, wherein the enclosure includes a support structure, said support structure being configured to support a plurality of loosely separable and at least partially translucent artificial embers; and  
a light source arranged and configured relative to said support structure so as  
30 to illuminate said artificial embers when supported by said support structure.

16. The fireplace of claim 15, further comprising a colored plate disposed between the light source and the plurality of supported artificial embers to generate the color of glowing embers with the plurality of supported artificial embers.

5

17. The fireplace of claim 15, wherein light from said light source passes through at least a portion of said support structure.

18. The fireplace of claim 15, wherein the support structure comprises an ember

10 support bed for supporting said artificial embers.

19. An apparatus for electrically simulating glowing embers within an enclosure of a fireplace, the apparatus comprising:

15 a support structure configured to be insertable with the enclosure and defining an ember support bed for supportably holding a plurality of translucent artificial embers;

a plurality of translucent artificial embers, configured to be loosely supported by said ember support bed; and

20 a light source arranged and configured to pass light through the ember support bed to illuminate the translucent artificial embers.

20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the translucent artificial embers comprise fused silica particles.

25 21. An apparatus for electrically simulating glowing embers within a fireplace, the apparatus comprising:

an ember support bed;

a plurality of translucent artificial embers, wherein the translucent artificial embers are individually arrangeable upon the ember support bed; and

30 a light source positioned to pass light through at least a portion of the ember

support bed to illuminate the loose translucent artificial embers.

22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the translucent artificial embers comprise fused silica particles.

5

23. An apparatus for electrically simulating glowing embers within a fireplace, the apparatus comprising:

means for loosely supporting a plurality of translucent artificial embers; and  
means for illuminating the plurality of translucent artificial embers.

10

24. A method for electrically simulating glowing embers within a fireplace, comprising:

providing an enclosure, wherein the enclosure defines a chamber;  
disposing an ember support bed structure within the chamber;

15

arranging a plurality of translucent artificial embers on said ember support bed structure;

providing a light source to produce a light beam; and  
passing said light beam through at least a portion of the artificial embers to illuminate the translucent artificial embers.

20

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising, dusting a portion of the surfaces of the translucent artificial embers with paint.

25

26. The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of passing said light beam through at least a portion of said ember support bed structure to illuminate said artificial embers.

27. A method for electrically simulating glowing embers within a fireplace, comprising:

30

providing an enclosure, wherein the enclosure defines a chamber;

disposing an ember support bed structure within the chamber to support a plurality of loosely separable and at least partially translucent artificial embers; and providing a light source to produce and pass a light beam through at least a portion of the artificial embers to illuminate the translucent artificial embers.